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Letter from Adeline Manning, to Anne Whitney, 1879 January 21

Adeline Manning

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Tues. night 21st Jan 79

My dear, how is it that you ask me to explain the very statement you affirm to be so clear a donkey could not miss? The difference between chaining ourselves & being chained by ourselves being so obvious; - not such a donkey would be begoggled by the apparent identity of you - me & I, "or beguiled into further explanation."

I am right happy on the letter that came this morning. If you expect me to make no inquiries, when to me letter I am told that you are ill, & in the next am told nothing further, you are not as reasonable as I took you to be. For me did I not tell you that I was going to a Philharmonic Concert in the evening. & now I tell you that I did go, & would go again tonight if I had a chance. Which leaves you so ground for an inquiry about me.

That you are going a so happily not your work gives me all the comfort you

you can desire.

Tues. morn. To begin when I left off. but
work - if you could behold the wonderful thing
I found you working on last night, a
gigantic bird with human head & neck.
"You'd be surprised." I awoke much im-
pressed with the importance of my vision, &
making great effort to fix it in my mind,
believing it to be a very valuable suggestion;
but fairly awake the monster lost its charm,
& I let it go.

To be sure, my beloved, you sent an oat-
meal sauce to our stomach, & I am mortified
that you got no acknowledgement. I don't
think Aunt sent you any message about
it, but I could have told you that the
remembrance pleased her, as well as the
thing itself, & she said, "now what can I
do for her? don't you think she would wear
a pair of socks, when her feet are cold at
night?" & as I thought you would, the
socks were forthwith knit, & were brought
to me last night; for you.

As to the Quotation, I beg not to be
held responsible for the terms or style; I

intended only to endorse the thought. identical proposition puzzled me; but if you will refer to Webster's marriage you will find an example of a similar use of the phrase. - I take it Sybilism is coming for the occasion, to stand against the other man. It seems to me there is about as much danger in one doctrine as ⁱⁿ the other: - that the Transcendentalist is as likely to be mistaken in his idea of what is right; as the Sybilist in his idea of what is useful. The same individual who does not take a long range "must decide in either case; but the Sybilist is more alive to the probability of his being in error, - knowing that his "aggregation of experiences needs constant reversal by the light of the latest intelligence; - than the Transcendentalist who regards his sense of Right as a kind of supernatural revelation. If we could choose them! but what we must we must; - you & I at least - & "in the scorn of consequence". It will never matter to Beauty; but for us how happy, that she too is imperatival, & before ~~her~~ we must, we must!

our "Saving Beauty".

No indeed, Mrs Putnam was not at home the day I went there. Today I went again & spent an hour or more with her. It is the anniversary of Mrs Dunham's death & I believe that with Mrs Dunham Mrs Putnam lost her last strong tie to life. She is ~~much~~ in better health than in the fall. & enjoys the fuller life that comes with living again among people. She speaks cheerfully though with an indifference about living, with an even desire not to live, that is very sad to me; & the more so, that I do not see what can prevent many dear people from feeling so.

What, at last, can any number of friends be without one friend? Once seen to wish to die might be happy; but to us of this day, & Mrs Putnam is one of such, it can be only cold & lone & sad. It is death. Next Tuesday I have engaged to go there again & dine. I spent this p.m. with Julia Tibbels & Sally Mason. & Julia came half way home with me. One question very dear, for here not answered. that about the bonnet. I want to know circumstances how it

is approved now, by yourself or others.

Last night I lay awake concocting a dampened woman's rights article to be published in all the principle journals, in reparation of a lot of nonsense in the December Popular Science. I could but think how you would approve my state of mind; at the same time that I was glad you were spared the perusal of "Biology & Women's Rights."

Tomorrow night Mr. Fries lectures here, & I have invited Mother to go with me to hear him; but we have a new invalid in the house. Melly Shaw, poor child, came here to rest & has a good time, & has fallen sick with a cold, than I ever saw anybody; we hope to have her better tomorrow, but I doubt if Mother will be free to go to lecture.

Sarah is quite well again. Father & about are about as they have been for a week: that is better than before; but not constantly improving. I am very mindful that the 2nd of Dec. comes in a little one a week. But, my beloved, I do not feel

as if I were going home then. Just as
certain it now I cannot leave her yet
with the intention of returning very soon.
As nearly as I can now judge, if she is not
considerably better, it will be better for me
to wait a week or two longer, in the hope
that she will improve much more: so
that she will feel at ease in having me
go. I need not decide yet, only I want
you to know how it is now.

Good night - My own - all mine!

Thursday p. m. We have just had a lunch
party. Sarah & her three youngest. Mary went
out here, & two others. This with the dentist.
This morning have used up the day. There
is no note yet from Miss Chapman. If
she comes once here, ^{which I could have} Sarah's little ones to show
her: they have all been as playful & as good
& quiet as kittens today. Kelly Shaw is much
better.

I have got some napkins for you: good large
ones of Irish linen; The pattern on them is
not what I wanted: but I think you will
approve the selection. One dozen - also you
are to be the possessor of $\frac{1}{2}$ doz. pretty guest

room towels. - I shall study up the etiquette of wedding visits & try to do the right thing by Mrs Brown's invitations. your sister told me that Mrs B. had sent me cards, but I did not think of their being cards of invitation to the wedding; Is Annie still with you? You would have told me if Rebecca had come.

The letter you sent me was from Carey Moore. Father & Mother are invited to go to California. I wish Father felt well enough to go. it would do them both good.

Yesterday & today have been so bright & warm that I hope you are enjoying them with Mrs Lambert; but I shall not venture again to believe that she is with you until I hear so.

Love to your Mother & all home friends, & Cordial remembrance to any who are so good as to inquire for your Absence.

I like to have your letters come folded in the usual way; because then I do not have to disfigure them with an extra fold to put them in my package.

All yours -

I hope I shall hear from Mrs. Chapman,
for she did not give me her address
so I cannot call until I hear.